



# WORKERS KILLED! NO LOCKOUT/TAGOUT

The California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program has been investigating work-related deaths since 1992. The goal of the FACE program is to prevent these deaths by informing workers and managers of worksite hazards and how to avoid them. The two incidents below involve workers who died when there was a failure to de-energize and lockout/tagout a piece of equipment before they worked on it.

## MECHANIC CRUSHED IN ESCALATOR

A 37-year-old escalator mechanic, Jorge H.\*, died when he was crushed in an escalator while performing maintenance. Jorge had removed the escalator stairs and crawled inside the mechanism of the escalator. A co-worker dropped the escalator's electrical circuit box. This triggered a relay and sent power to the escalator. The stairs began moving. Jorge could not get out before the power was turned off. There were no locks or tags on the power controls to the escalator. The disconnect switch at the circuit panel that fed power to the elevator had not been locked and tagged out. No blocks or mechanical devices had been used to keep the escalator from moving.

## WELDER CRUSHED TO DEATH BY SHREDDER

A 52-year-old welder, Jeff K.\*, died when he was crushed to death by a hydraulic door on a scrap metal shredder. Jeff was trying to remove a jammed piece of metal from the hydraulic door. The system's energy had not been released and the door had not been blocked open. Jeff had not de-energized and locked out the machine. He cut the jammed piece of metal with a torch. The jam fell away and the door closed on him. The company did not require a supervisor's visual confirmation of de-energization and lockout/tagout prior to maintenance work.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Workers should:

- ▶ Be sure machines are de-energized and locked and tagged out before they do maintenance.
- ▶ Block machines from moving before doing maintenance.

### Employers should:

- ▶ Consider requiring that workers be directly supervised during lockout/tagout.

For complete fatality reports of these (01CA009 & 02CA004), or other cases, and additional information on the California FACE program, please contact:  
California Department of Public Health  
Occupational Health Branch (OHB), FACE Program  
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, 3rd Floor, Richmond, CA 94804  
(510) 620-5757

[California FACE Program's website \(http://cdph.ca.gov/face\)](http://cdph.ca.gov/face)

CA Relay Service: 711 or (800) 735-2929 (hearing/speech impaired)

To obtain a copy of this document in an alternate format, please contact OHB at (510) 620-5757. Allow at least 10 days to coordinate alternate format services.

\* Not the victim's real name

# PLEASE POST

California Department of Public Health  
Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program  
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, 3rd Floor  
Richmond, CA 94804



**FACE stands for "Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation."** The purpose of the **FACE** program is to identify hazards that may cause work-related deaths so that employers and employees can help prevent them.

**FACE** is a program run by the Occupational Health Branch within the California Department of Public Health, and funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor  
State of California  
Kimberly Belshe, Secretary  
Health and Human Services Agency  
Mark B. Horton, Director  
Department of Public Health  
JULY 2003

